

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Issued April 25, 1936

**1936 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
IN BRIEF—NORTHEAST REGION**

(Information for farmers in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania)

**WHAT THE FARMER DOES UNDER THE PROGRAM**

1. SUBMITS WORK SHEET—Lists his 1935 crops, the acreage of each, and other information about his farm.
2. WORKS WITH COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE SOIL-DEPLETING BASE.
3. GROWS SOIL-CONSERVING CROPS ON PART OF SOIL-DEPLETING BASE.
4. CARRIES OUT APPROVED SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES.
5. MAKES FORMAL APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT.
6. HAS FARM CHECKED TO DETERMINE WHETHER CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT HAVE BEEN MET.

The Agricultural Conservation Program carries out the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936. The primary purpose of the program is to conserve and improve the Nation's soil fertility and halt wasteful exploitation of soil resources.

The program makes it possible for every farmer to share in conserving our national agricultural resources. Farmers may earn payments for increasing their acreage of crops that conserve the soil and by adopting practices that increase soil fertility. The program, although national in scope, will be adapted to local conditions.

The program is to be conducted by farmers through community, county, and State committees with the help of the Extension Service and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. All farm operators who take part in the program become members of county associations and are entitled to vote in the election of committeemen.

The producer can obtain details of the program by attending any of the community meetings held in his county.

**Filling out a work sheet.**—The work sheet which the farmer gets from his committeemen or from the county office, contains spaces for recording the acreage of crops harvested in 1935 and other information about the farm. It should be filled out with the help of a committeeman or other qualified person. Filling out the work sheet does not bind a farmer in any way, but it is necessary before he can apply for payments.

**Approved soil-building practices.**—For each State, the State committee has recommended and the Secretary of Agriculture has approved the specified soil-building practices for the State. These include such practices as new seedings of specified soil-building crops, liming, and improving pasture. Some rates of payment for soil-building practices vary from State to State depending upon conditions in each particular State. Details regarding the rates for soil-building practices may be obtained by farmers from their county extension agents.



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**Making farming operations measure up to standards of program.**—Using the information obtained on the work sheet together with other information about the program, the farmer plans his crops and farm practices in line with the program.

**Filing formal application for payment.**—Later in the year forms will be made available which can be used to apply for payments. Checking and certification to show that the farmer has carried out his farming operations in line with the program will be required as the basis for payment.

### HOW LAND USE IS CLASSIFIED

**Crop land.**—Includes all farm land which is tillable and from which at least one crop other than wild hay was harvested between January 1, 1930, and January 1, 1936. It also includes all farm land in orchards and vineyards which had not reached bearing age on January 1, 1936. It is important to note that crop land does NOT include land which has been in permanent pasture since January 1, 1930. Most of a farmer's crop land will be classified under two headings—soil-depleting and soil-conserving.

**Soil-depleting crop land.**—Land devoted to any of the following crops will be regarded as used for the production of a soil-depleting crop:

1. Corn.
2. Tobacco.
3. Potatoes.
4. Sweetpotatoes.
5. Truck and vegetable crops, including melons and strawberries.
6. Grain sorghums and sweet sorghums.
7. Small grains: Wheat, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, and grain mixtures, harvested for grain or hay or pastured (except for certain grains when used as green manure or nurse crops, as provided under the soil-conserving classification).
8. Annual grasses: Sudan, millets, and Italian ryegrass, harvested for hay or seed.
9. Annual legumes: Soybeans, field beans, cowpeas, and field peas, harvested for grain or hay.

**Soil-conserving crop land.**—Land devoted to any of the following crops will be regarded as used for the production of a soil-conserving crop, except that any land from which a soil-depleting crop is harvested in the same year will be regarded as having been used for the production of a soil-depleting crop in such year, unless otherwise provided:

1. Small grains.—Rye, barley, oats, and grain mixtures, winter pastured or not, and turned under as green-manure crops.
2. Annual grasses.—Sudan, millets, and Italian ryegrass, turned under as green-manure crops, pastured, or left on the land.
3. Perennial grasses.—Kentucky bluegrass, Canada bluegrass, timothy, rough stalked meadow grass, perennial ryegrass, orchard grass, redtop, and mixtures of these, without a nurse crop or with oats, barley, or grain mixtures as a nurse crop which is cut green or pastured sufficiently to prevent grain formation.
4. Annual legumes.—Vetch, winter peas, annual sweetclover, crimson clover, and annual lespedeza, without a nurse crop or with oats, barley, or grain mixtures as a nurse crop which is cut green or pastured sufficiently to prevent grain formation; soybeans, field peas, field beans, and cowpeas, when turned under as green-manure crops.
5. Biennial legumes.—Sweet, red, alsike, and mammoth clovers, and mixtures seeded with at least 40 percent of these by weight, without a nurse crop or with oats, barley, or grain mixtures as a nurse crop.
6. Perennial legumes.—Alfalfa, white clover, and mixtures seeded with at least 40 percent of these by weight, without a nurse crop or with oats, barley, or grain mixtures as a nurse crop.
7. Forest trees.—Forest trees planted on crop land since January 1, 1934.



**Neutral land.**—Land devoted to the following uses will be regarded as not used for the production of a soil-depleting crop or a soil-conserving crop:

1. Vineyards, tree fruits, small fruits, and nut trees, not interplanted (if interplanted, the actual interplanted acreage shall be classified according to the interplanted crop).
2. Idle crop land.
3. Cultivated fallow land.
4. Wasteland, roads, lanes, lots, yards, and other similar noncrop land.
5. Woodland other than crop land planted to forest trees since January 1, 1934.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF SOIL-DEPLETING BASE ACREAGE

**Total soil-depleting base acreage.**—A base acreage of all soil-depleting crops will be established for every farmer who files a work sheet. This base will be the number of acres of soil-depleting crops harvested on the farm in 1935, subject to possible adjustments to allow for changes from normal planting in 1935 due to adjustment programs, or to correct abnormally large or small acreages in 1935 due to unusual weather or other conditions.

**General soil-depleting base acreage.**—The general soil-depleting base is the same as the total soil-depleting base except for farms on which tobacco is grown. For these farms it is the difference between the total soil-depleting base and tobacco soil-depleting base.

**Tobacco soil-depleting base acreage.**—The tobacco soil-depleting base will be the base established for the farm under the procedure for tobacco adjustment programs for 1936, subject to decrease upon the request of the operator or to adjustment upward or downward upon the recommendation of the committee if such adjustment is necessary in order to obtain an equitable tobacco base for the farm as compared with similar neighboring farms.

#### RATES OF PAYMENTS

Two classes of payments will be made: Class I, or soil-conserving payments, and class II, or soil-building payments. A farmer may qualify for either or both of these payments.

**Class I (soil-conserving) payments.**—These payments will be made at the rates given below to farmers who in 1936 grow soil-conserving crops on part of their soil-depleting base acreage.

For each acre of the general soil-depleting base (crops other than tobacco) used for the growing of soil-conserving crops in 1936, an average of \$10 per acre for the United States will be paid. This rate will vary above or below \$10 by States, counties, and individual farms depending upon the productivity of the land.

For each acre of the tobacco soil-depleting base used in 1936 for the growing of soil-conserving crops, the rates of payment will be as follows:

1. For Connecticut Valley types 51 and 52, 4 cents per pound times the average number of pounds produced per acre on the farm.
2. For any other type of tobacco, 3 cents per pound times the average number of pounds produced per acre on the farm.

**Class II (soil-building) payments.**—These payments will be made to farmers who in 1936 carry out such soil-building practices as may be recommended by the State committee and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Approved practices may vary from State to State dependent upon conditions in the State. In general they will include such practices



as new seedings of specified crops which will improve the soil, liming, improvement of pasture land, and planting of forest trees.

Payments will be made for the number of acres on which any of the approved soil-building practices are conducted, and will be at the rate per acre approved for each such practice.

#### MAXIMUM PAYMENTS

**Soil-conserving payments.**—The maximum number of acres for which soil-conserving payments for any farm will be made are as follows:

1. 15 percent of the general soil-depleting base acreage.
2. 30 percent of the tobacco soil-depleting base acreage.

**Soil-building payments.**—Although the payments for some soil-building practices may be several dollars an acre, there is a top limit on the total class II or soil-building payment for any farm. That top limit, or soil-building allowance is one dollar for each acre on the farm in soil-conserving crops in 1936. For example, if a man has 60 acres in soil-conserving crops on the farm in 1936, the maximum soil-building payment he can receive is \$60.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL PAYMENTS

**Soil-conserving acreage.**—To receive soil-conserving payment and soil-building payment at the full rate specified, the farmer must have an acreage in 1936 devoted to soil-conserving crops at least equal to 15 percent of the general soil-depleting base acreage plus 20 percent of the tobacco soil-depleting base acreage, if any. For every acre which the farmer is short of this requirement, a deduction will be made in his soil-conserving payment at the rate of one and one-half times the rate of the farm's class I payment.

**Soil-depleting acreage.**—If the acreage of general soil-depleting crops (other than tobacco) on the farm in 1936 is more than the general soil-depleting base acreage established for the farm, or if the acreage of tobacco on the farm in 1936 is more than the tobacco soil-depleting base acreage established for the farm, a deduction will be made from the payment which otherwise would be made for shifting land to soil-conserving crops and carrying out soil-building practices. For each acre of general soil-depleting crops in excess of the general soil-depleting base, a deduction will be made at the rate established for the farm for such crops. For each acre of tobacco in excess of the tobacco soil-depleting base, a deduction will be made at the rate established for the farm for tobacco.

#### DIVISION OF PAYMENTS

**Class I or soil-conserving payments.**—These payments will be divided among owners, share tenants, and sharecroppers, in the same proportion as the principal soil-depleting crop or its proceeds is divided under their lease, or operating agreement, unless upon recommendation by the State committee or the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, a different basis for dividing the soil-conserving payment is approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

**Class II or soil-building payments.**—These payments will go to the owner, share tenant, or sharecropper who incurred the expense of the soil-building practices on the farm in 1936. Where two or more persons incurred this expense, the payment will be divided equally between them. The determination of the person or persons thus incurring the expense will be made by the county committee under instructions approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.